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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,  
BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY,

Seed and Plant Introduction and Distribution.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

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DISTRIBUTION OF NOVELTIES AND SPECIALTIES.

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SECTION 1.

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The varieties included in this special distribution are either new or are not as well known as they should be. The seeds are sent out this year, accompanied by full descriptions of the varieties, in the hope that those who receive them will report the results of their trial to the Department. In making the report, please use the blanks accompanying this circular and return them in the inclosed franked envelope, which requires no postage.

CORN.

TRUCKER'S FAVORITE.

A variety of white field dent corn, introduced in 1899 by T. W. Wood & Sons, which is recommended by them for table use. It has found some favor as a substitute for sweet corn, but the quality is poor and decidedly inferior to varieties of sweet corn, though much better than the ordinary varieties of field corn. It possesses the advantage over sweet corn in that it can be planted earlier, is hardier, and can be grown successfully sometimes where sweet corn does not grow well.

In these respects it resembles the Early Adams or Burlington field corn, which is used so largely as sweet corn, but differs from it principally in being larger eared and later. It is second early in season and follows immediately after Early Adams. The habit of the plant is the same as field corn, and the ears are 14-rowed and handsome. More especially adapted for large truckers than for home gardeners to whom quality is more of a consideration than hardiness.

Seed furnished by T. W. Wood & Sons, Richmond, Va.

## BEET.

### CRIMSON GLOBE.

An entirely distinct variety introduced in 1900 by Peter Henderson & Co.

Different from other kinds principally in its deep dark crimson color, and valuable on this account as well as for earliness, beautiful globe shape, and perfectly smooth roots, which are entirely free from root hairs, rootlets, and markings. The taproot is also very fine and slender and the top very smooth, with small crown. The roots are, however, very small, but the leaves being also small and very erect in habit the plants can be grown very close together and large crops obtained. The leaves are dark green in color. The flesh is a deep crimson and beautifully zoned with dark crimson and a lighter shade; the quality is very sweet and tender, never coarse nor woody. The season is about the same as Detroit Dark Red.

Seed furnished by T. W. Wood & Sons, Richmond, Va.

## LETTUCE.

### WOOD'S CABBAGE.

This appears to be a strain of the well-known Hubbard's Market and was named and introduced in 1884 by T. W. Wood & Sons, of Richmond, Va. This is not at all a new variety or even a distinct sort, but is deserving of attention

as an especially pure and even stock of Hubbard's Market, from which it was probably developed.

The plant is medium early, medium large, thick-leaved, very solid and compact, strictly cabbage-heading in habit, and medium dark solid green in color. It is a good all-round variety, answering splendidly for both forcing under glass and growing outdoors either in early spring or midsummer. The quality is very fine, being tender and sweet and of a slightly buttery flavor. The plants are hardy and slow to go to seed.

Seed furnished by T. W. Wood & Sons, Richmond, Va.

## SQUASH.

### WOOD'S EARLIEST PROLIFIC.

Originated with market gardeners in Hanover County, Va., and introduced by T. W. Wood & Sons in 1897. It is similar in all respects to the well-known White Bush Scallop, but is said by the originators to be a week to ten days earlier and with scallops not quite so decided and more evenly rounded on the edge.

This variety is a type of the summer squash seen everywhere very early in our markets, and known as cymling in some places and pattypan in others. The plants are strictly bush in habit and the fruits flattish and round in shape, with center enlarged and margins flattened and scalloped. In color the fruits are a creamy white, the surface is very smooth, and the rind is exceedingly hard when the fruit is dead ripe. This is the earliest squash obtainable, and though of good quality it is not equal to the winter varieties which are not obtainable till much later in the season.

Seed furnished by T. W. Wood & Sons, Richmond, Va.

## TOMATO.

### SPARKS' EARLIANA.

Originated by Geo. C. Sparks, of Philadelphia, and introduced in 1900 by Johnson & Stokes of the same city.

This variety is unquestionably an improvement in extra early tomatoes. While it is just as early as Atlantic Prize and similar sorts, which have formerly held the lead for smooth early tomatoes, it is an improvement on them in smoothness and size, qualities which are generally gained at the expense of earliness. The fruits are the same bright red color and flattened globe shape as Atlantic Prize, but they are a little larger in size and a considerably larger per cent of them are smooth and salable in the best markets.

The vines have fine foliage, are very open in habit, productive, and require but a short time to mature the season's crop.

Seed furnished by T. W. Wood & Sons, Richmond, Va.

A. J. PIETERS,  
*Botanist in Charge.*

Approved:

B. T. GALLOWAY,  
*Chief of Bureau.*



**U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,  
BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY.**

**Seed and Plant Introduction and Distribution.**

**WASHINGTON, D. C.**

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**DISTRIBUTION OF NOVELTIES AND SPECIALTIES.**

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**SECTION 2.**

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**BEAN.**

**JONES' STRINGLESS WAX.**

Originated by A. N. Jones, of Leroy, N. Y., and introduced by American seedsmen in 1898. It is the result of crossing the Yosemite Wax with a white-seeded cross of the Ivory Pod Wax, and combines the superlative quality and fleshy, absolutely stringless pods of the former with the great productiveness and hardness of the latter. The "shy" bearing and ill-shaped pods of the Yosemite are eliminated, while the seeds being white makes it especially valuable to market gardeners who wish to use it as a shell bean, in case the marketing of string beans proves unprofitable. The pods are very beautiful, of a waxy white color, cylindrical in shape, and of medium size. The plants are very early, very dwarf in habit,

and run remarkably even and pure. This variety is similar to the recently introduced Golden Crown Stringless, and also to the old and well-known Challenge Black Wax, from which it differs principally in color of seed and larger vine.

Seed furnished by D. M. Ferry & Co., Detroit, Mich.

## ONION.

### SOUTHERN GROWN YELLOW GLOBE DANVERS.

This seed is said by the grower to be specially adapted for the Southern States and to make better bulbs when planted in the South than seed grown in California even or other sections of the country.

The variety is the old and well-known yellow sort, grown so much more extensively than any other and seen everywhere in our markets. It is deeper in shape than the Yellow Danvers or Flat Danvers, but otherwise is the same. The bulbs are a flat globe shape, of medium size, intermediate in season, medium yellow in color, and of a mild flavor. The variety is hardy, productive, a good keeper, and a good general purpose sort.

Seed furnished by T. W. Wood & Sons, Richmond, Va.

## MUSKMELON.

### ROCKY FORD.

This variety is a strain of the old and well-known Netted Gem, and has been recently developed and grown in immense quantities at Rocky Ford, Colo., whence it has been shipped extensively to all the eastern and northern markets. The variety has been made extremely popular by the Rocky Ford growers as much on account of the careful shipping they have practiced as for the fine melons they have been able to produce in their ideal melon-growing country. The development of the variety is obscure and disputed. It was first introduced by seedsmen in 1899.

The melon is very early and productive, and the fruit is oval-shaped, shallow-ribbed, densely netted, small in size and

mottled green and yellow in color. The flesh is green, of the very best quality, and though not as rich as some others, is not surpassed in sweetness by any, while it is uniformly good and more universally liked than any other.

This seed was carefully selected by D. V. Burrill, of Rocky Ford, Colo., from melons of uniform size that were ideal in every particular.

## TOMATO.

### QUARTER CENTURY.

Originated in Monmouth County, N. J., in 1896 by Dr. Wm. Van Fleet, and introduced in 1900 in trial packets by W. Atlee Burpee & Co. In the following year it was named Quarter Century. It appeared as a sport in the third generation from a cross between Lorillard, a bright scarlet fruit of the ordinary type of foliage, and Dwarf Champion, a purplish-red fruit of dwarf habit.

The variety is unquestionably, as claimed by the introducer, a valuable one, and larger in vine, more productive, and larger fruited than Dwarf Champion, which is the recognized standard dwarf variety. It differs also in being a bright scarlet instead of purplish-red. The fruits are medium large, very deep or nearly round in shape, perfectly smooth, and of high quality. It is most like Dwarf Aristocrat and Dwarf Stone, but much larger fruited than the former and not quite so deep scarlet in color as the latter. It is claimed to be more dwarf, compact, and erect in habit than any other bush variety. It can be planted as close as 2½ feet apart each way.

Seed furnished by T. W. Wood & Sons, Richmond, Va.

## RADISH.

### WHITE ICICLE.

Originated by a German grower several years previous to its introduction into this country in 1899 by J. M. Thorburn & Co.

This variety is a decided acquisition to our list of radishes. It is a long, pure white sort, especially superior to other kinds

and run remarkably even and pure. This variety is similar to the recently introduced Golden Crown Stringless, and also to the old and well-known Challenge Black Wax, from which it differs principally in color of seed and larger vine.

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in its good size and length, combined with earliness and strikingly beautiful color, which is of a rich glossy white, entirely free from purple or yellow tints, and very much the same clear white at the top as at the bottom. The stocks run very even in both color and shape, and in the latter respect are very beautiful and different from other long sorts in retaining their fullness to the bottom. The roots are of the very highest quality and rich, tender, and sweet. The plants remain fit for use fairly long before shooting to seed.

Seed furnished by T. W. Wood & Sons, Richmond, Va.

A. J. PIETERS,  
*Botanist in Charge.*

Approved:

B. T. GALLOWAY,  
*Chief of Bureau.*

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,  
BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY,

Seed and Plant Introduction and Distribution.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

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DISTRIBUTION OF NOVELTIES AND SPECIALTIES.

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SECTION 3.

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MUSTARD.

OSTRICH PLUME.

Originated in Augusta, Ga., and introduced in 1897 by the N. L. Willet Drug Company of the same city.

It is claimed by the introducer to be the most beautiful and perfect mustard in cultivation, and as pretty as an ornamental plant. It is described as a large plant, often weighing as much as 5 or 6 pounds, and with tender plumes, very long and finely crimped.

## BEANS.

## WOOD'S EARLIEST HARDIEST.

Introduced by T. W. Wood & Sons in 1893, and said by them to resemble the well-known Early Mohawk.

The claims for this variety made by the introducers are extreme earliness and hardness, great productiveness, and fine quality. It is said to excel in these qualities any variety in cultivation; to be able to stand a light frost without injury, and to stand early planting better than any other variety; also on account of its productiveness to be suitable for a main crop or for late planting. The pods are extremely tender and make good snaps, and the dry beans are suitable for winter use as shell beans. The pods are described as very large, long, and flat, and the seeds as white in color.

Seed furnished by T. W. Wood & Sons, Richmond, Va.

## LETTUCE.

## ALL SEASONS.

A very desirable variety introduced in 1897 by J. C. Vaughan, of Chicago, Ill., but it seems never to have gained any general recognition. Excepting that the seed is black instead of white, it might very generally pass as identical with the well-known Deacon, but it differs from that variety in a number of particulars, the most important of which are its slightly larger size, later season, and rounder head. Where Deacon is liked, this variety should be tried, for under some conditions it grows better than the Deacon, though generally it is not so sure a header.

All Seasons is a large, thick-headed, rather soft, but strictly cabbage-heading variety, light green in color, and medium late in season. The quality is very fine, of a soft texture and buttery flavor, and though it can hardly be said to be strictly delicate in flavor, it is absolutely free from coarseness or bitterness.

Seed furnished by Vaughan's Seed Store, Chicago, Ill.

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## MUSKMELON.

### ROCKY FORD.

This variety is a strain of the old and well-known Netted Gem, and has been recently developed and grown in immense quantities at Rocky Ford, Colo., whence it has been shipped extensively to all the eastern and northern markets. The variety has been made extremely popular by the Rocky Ford growers as much on account of the careful shipping they have practiced as for the fine melons they have been able to produce in their ideal melon-growing country. The development of the variety is obscure and disputed. It was first introduced by seedsmen in 1899.

The melon is very early and productive, and the fruit oval-shaped, shallow-ribbed, densely netted, small in size, and mottled green and yellow in color. The flesh is green, of the very best quality, and, though not as rich as some others, is not surpassed in sweetness by any, while it is uniformly good and more universally liked than any other.

This seed was carefully selected by D. V. Burrill, of Rocky Ford, Colo., from melons of uniform size that were ideal in every particular.

## WATERMELON.

### EDEN.

Originated by Mr. C. H. Mathis, of South Carolina, a large southern melon grower, and introduced in 1900 by T. W. Wood & Sons. It is said by the introducers to be a cross of the Kolb's Gem and Rattlesnake. It very closely resembles the former, but is superior to it in its larger size, brighter striping, and more symmetrical shape. It also resembles the well-known Dixie and recently introduced Iceberg, but differs from them as well as from Kolb's Gem in the color of seeds, which are white instead of mottled grayish-black, as in these varieties. In what further respects, if any, it differs from Iceberg, our trials have not yet fully demonstrated, but it is unquestionably shorter in shape than Dixie. The fruits are of mammoth size, short oval in shape, and brilliantly striped

light and dark green. The variety is especially valuable as a shipper, but for home use other varieties of better quality are recommended. The quality is fair, but compared to the finer-grained sorts, such as Peerless and Round Light, it is coarse, stringy, and lacks in sweetness and richness.

Seed furnished by T. S. Williams, Columbia, S. C.

A. J. PIETERS,  
*Botanist in Charge.*

Approved:

B. T. GALLOWAY,  
*Chief of Bureau.*

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CORN.

COSMOPOLITAN.

Originated by E. B. Clark & Co., seed growers of Milford, Conn., and introduced in 1901 by W. Atlee Burpee & Co., of Philadelphia.

This is an extra early variety, of good quality and fair-sized ear. It is not quite so early as Cory, First of All, and other first extra early varieties, but is of better quality, and the ears are larger. The kernels are wrinkled, very large, broad, flat, and short. Though not in the least flinty the seed germinates very well, and can be sown earlier than the later and more wrinkled varieties. The ears are 10 and 12 rowed, very well filled, about the same diameter from end to end, and very handsome.

Seed furnished by W. Atlee Burpee & Co., Philadelphia, Pa.

## LETTUCE.

### ICEBERG.

Originated in Italy, and first introduced into this country in 1894 by W. Atlee Burpee & Co. Marblehead Mammoth, which was introduced the following year, is sometimes thought to be the same. Undoubtedly stocks of the two are often interchanged, but the true Marblehead Mammoth is more crumpled in leaf and less heading in habit than Iceberg.

The variety is a very large, late, extremely hard, strictly cabbage-heading sort, light green in color. The leaf is very crumpled, slightly tinged with red, and very curly at the margin. In quality it is very tender, crisp, and sweet, but not as delicate in flavor as some of the smaller and less coarse-growing sorts. It is not suitable for forcing, but does well outdoors and stands the heat well. The well-known Hansen and New York varieties are very much like it in all respects except color.

Seed furnished by W. Atlee Burpee & Co., Philadelphia, Pa.

## MUSKMELON.

### DEFENDER.

This desirable new variety is a result of continued selection of Paul Rose with the especial view of developing fine quality, thick meat, and thin rind. It was first introduced in 1901 by D. M. Ferry & Co., by whom it was originated. The fruits resemble Paul Rose more than any other, and being considerably larger and more densely netted than that popular variety, it makes a valuable addition to our list of varieties.

The fruits are strikingly beautiful in appearance, and especially distinguished by regular oval shape, even shallow ribbing, thick netting, and rich mottled color. The flesh is of a deep red color, very sweet, rich, and melting, without the coarseness and stringiness of some of the large-growing green-fleshed sorts. Being firm and solid, the fruits are well adapted for shipping. They are of medium size, and the plants are productive and early.

Seed furnished by D. M. Ferry & Co., Detroit, Mich.

## RADISH.

### WHITE ICICLE.

Originated by a German grower several years previous to its introduction into this country in 1899 by J. M. Thorburn & Co.

This variety is a decided acquisition to our list of radishes. It is a long, pure whitesort, especially superior to other kinds in its good size and length, combined with earliness and strikingly beautiful color, which is of a rich glossy white, entirely free from purple or yellow tints, and very much the same clear white at the top as at the bottom. The stocks run very even in both color and shape, and in the latter respect are very beautiful and different from other long sorts in retaining their fullness to the bottom. The roots are of the highest quality, and rich, tender, and sweet. The plants are rather slow to shoot to seed and the roots are fit for use a fairly long time.

Seed furnished by W. Atlee Burpee & Co., Philadelphia, Pa.

## ONION.

### EXTRA EARLY BROWN SPANISH.

This variety has been grown and selected for the past few years by C. C. Morse & Co., seed growers, Santa Clara, Cal., and is introduced for the first time this year. The accompanying description was furnished by the growers:

“This onion has been grown for many years in Australia, where it is used for a very early market variety. It is extremely early, and can be had in market at least four weeks before Early Yellow Cracker, Yellow Danvers, Australian Brown, Early Red Globe, or Extra Early Red Flat. It is a half-globe variety, and averages about two and one-half inches in diameter. Its color is brown, much the same but a little lighter than Australian Brown. It is mild and sweet, and while not a good onion for storage, keeps much better than the Bermudas or any of the early white onions. It ripens down evenly, and seldom has any scallions or stiff necks.

With us in California it was ready for market August 1, at least one month before the early varieties mentioned above, and now, October 13, it is still in very good condition for market."

Seed furnished by C. C. Morse & Co., Santa Clara, Cal.

A. J. PIETERS,  
*Botanist in Charge.*

Approved:

B. T. GALLOWAY,  
*Chief of Bureau.*

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MUSKMELON

ROCKY FORD.

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The melon is very early and productive, and the fruits are oval-shaped, shallow-ribbed, densely netted, small in shape and mottled green and yellow in color. The flesh is green, of the very best quality, and though not as rich as some others is not surpassed in sweetness by any, while it is uniformly good and more universally liked than any other.

This seed was carefully selected by D. V. Burrill, of Rocky Ford, Colo., from melons of uniform size that were ideal in every particular.

## BEAN.

### THORBURN'S PROLIFIC MARKET.

A foreign type of bean obtained by J. M. Thorburn & Co. from Vienna, Austria, and first introduced by them in 1894.

It is claimed by the introducers to be an enormously productive variety, bearing its pods in thick clusters of 35 to 40 pods to a plant, and exceedingly vigorous, healthy, and remarkably rust proof. The pods are light green in color, very long and perfectly round in shape, solid-fleshed, and of a very soft and marrowy texture. The vines are very large and erect in habit; the leaves, very dark; seeds, black; season, late. It is claimed by the originators that for productiveness, solidity of flesh, and roundness of pod it excels any variety now in cultivation.

Seed furnished by J. M. Thorburn & Co., New York.

## TOMATO.

### SUCCESS.

Originated in 1897 by M. M. Miesse, a market gardener and tomato specialist of Lancaster, Ohio. Introduced in 1900 by Wm. Henry Maule under the name of "Maule's 1900," and in the following year called "Success."

This is an excellent, very large, smooth, deep scarlet variety, similar to many other recently introduced varieties such as Noble, Century, and Marvel, but said to be superior to them in productiveness, smoothness of fruit, and to be more free from any hard or green core. The variety does undoubtedly combine these qualities to a very large degree, and, as claimed,

is of excellent quality and a splendid sort for either the canner, trucker, or private gardener. The foliage is of the common large-leaved kind, and the vines are strong and vigorous. The season is second early. The fruits are a deep flat globe shape, or as nearly globular in form as it is possible to obtain a large tomato.

Seed furnished by M. M. Miesse & Son, Lancaster, Ohio.

## RADISH.

### GLASS.

A variety introduced by F. Barteldes & Co., and Northrup, King & Co., as claimed, about ten years ago, the former obtaining his seed from a Denver (Colo.) market gardener and the latter from Cincinnati market gardeners. The variety is considered by many to be identical with the Cincinnati Market and Long Scarlet Short Top varieties, but a few claim that it is not quite so long and that it possesses to a degree greater than Long Scarlet Short Top the peculiar transparency which gives rise to its name.

The roots are very long and tapering, exceedingly smooth, free from root hairs, of a brilliant scarlet color, making it altogether the most handsome and showy of the long red varieties. The variety is medium early in season and remains fit for use fairly long before shooting to seed. The flesh is mild and tender. As the tops are very small, the roots can be planted close together.

Seed furnished by Northrup, King & Co., Minneapolis, Minn.

## SQUASH.

### GOLDEN BRONZE.

This variety is the result of an accidental cross between the Bay State and Boston Marrow found by Mr. Aaron Low, of Hingham, Mass., in 1896. After being improved by Mr. Low this variety was sold to James J. H. Gregory & Son, who introduced it in 1899 as "No. 7," and in the following year named it "Golden Bronze." The variety is of the same

general pointed oval shape as the Boston Marrow, viz, very sloping at stem end and almost blunt at blossom end. The surface is also wrinkled as in Boston Marrow, but in color is a dark grayish-green turning to a greenish-bronze on the upper surface when fully ripe. The flesh is a bright golden yellow, fine grained, and of excellent quality. The variety is early, productive, hardy, and a good keeper.

Seed furnished by T. W. Wood & Sons, Richmond, Va.

A. J. PIETERS,  
*Botanist in Charge.*

APPROVED:

B. T. GALLOWAY,  
*Chief of Bureau.*



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SECTION 5a.

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It is claimed by the introducers to be an enormously productive variety, bearing its pods in thick clusters of 35 to 40 pods to a plant, and to be also exceedingly vigorous, healthy, and remarkably rust proof. The pods are light green in color, very long and perfectly round, solid fleshed and of a very soft and marrowy texture. The vines are very large and erect in habit; the leaves, very dark; the seeds, black; and season,

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Seed furnished by J. M. Thorburn & Co., New York.

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### **SUCCESS.**

Originated in 1897 by M. M. Miesse, a market gardener and tomato specialist of Lancaster, Ohio. Introduced in 1900 by Wm. Henry Maule under the name of "Maule's 1900," and in the following year called Success.

This is an excellent, very large, smooth, deep scarlet variety, similar to many other recently introduced varieties such as Noble, Century, and Marvel, but said to be superior to them in productiveness, smoothness of fruit, and to be more free from any hard or green core. The variety does undoubtedly combine these qualities to a very large degree, and as claimed is of excellent quality and a splendid sort for either the canner, trucker, or private gardener. The foliage is of the common large-leaved kind, and the vines are strong and vigorous. The season is second early. The fruits are a deep flat globe shape, or as nearly globular in form as it is possible to obtain a large tomato.

Seed furnished by M. M. Miesse & Son, Lancaster, Ohio.

## **MUSKMELON.**

### **ROCKY FORD.**

This variety is a strain of the old and well-known Netted Gem, and has recently been developed and grown in immense quantities at Rocky Ford, Colo., whence it has been shipped extensively to all the eastern and northern markets. The variety has been made extremely popular by the Rocky Ford growers, as much on account of the careful shipping they have practiced as for the fine melons they have been able to produce in their ideal melon-growing country. The development of the variety is obscure and disputed. It was first introduced by seedsmen in 1899.

The melon is very early and productive, and the fruits oval-shaped, shallow-ribbed, densely netted, small in size, and mottled green and yellow in color. The flesh is green, of the very best quality, and though not as rich as some others is not surpassed in sweetness by any, while it is uniformly good and more universally liked than any other.

This seed was carefully selected by D. V. Burrill, of Rocky Ford, Colo., from melons of uniform size that were ideal in every particular.

## RADISH.

### GLASS.

A variety introduced by F. Barteldes & Co., and Northrup, King & Co., as claimed, about ten years ago, the former obtaining his seed from a Denver (Colo.) market gardener and the latter from Cincinnati market gardeners. The variety is considered by many to be identical with the Cincinnati Market and Long Scarlet Short Top varieties, but a few claim that it is not quite so long and that it possesses to a greater degree than the Long Scarlet Short Top the peculiar transparency which gives rise to its name.

The roots are very long and tapering, exceedingly smooth, free from root hairs, of a brilliant scarlet color, making it altogether the most handsome and showy of the long red varieties. The variety is medium early in season and remains fit for use fairly long before shooting to seed. The flesh is mild and tender. As the tops are very small, the roots can be planted close together.

Seed furnished by Northrup, King & Co., Minneapolis, Minn

## SQUASH.

### GOLDEN HUBBARD.

A sport of the well-known Hubbard, introduced in 1896 by Storrs & Harrison Co. An exceedingly valuable introduction and entirely distinct. It is considered by many to be the best fall and winter variety yet introduced and has now become a standard sort. The variety is similar to the Hubbard, except

in color, which is a deep orange yellow with a slight greenish tinge at the extreme blossom end, and although somewhat smaller in size it is more productive than its parent. The variety is of large size, pointed oval in shape, extremely warty, and a good keeper. The flesh is fine grained, very dry, rich, sweet, and in color a deep orange extending clear to the rind, without the objectionable greenish tinge found in the Hubbard.

Seed furnished by W. Atlee Burpee & Co., Philadelphia, Pa.

A. J. PIETERS,  
*Botanist in Charge.*

Approved:

B. T. GALLOWAY,  
*Chief of Bureau.*

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,  
BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY,  
Seed and Plant Introduction and Distribution,  
Washington, D. C.

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DISTRIBUTION OF NOVELTIES AND SPECIALTIES.

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SECTION 6.

The varieties included in this special distribution are either new or are not as well known as they should be. The seeds are sent out this year, accompanied by full descriptions of the varieties, in the hope that those who receive them will report the results of their trial to the Department. In making the report, please use the blanks accompanying this circular and return them in the inclosed franked envelope, which requires no postage.

PEA.

THOMAS LAXTON.

Originated by Messrs. Thomas Laxton & Co., of Bedfordshire, England, and first catalogued by American seedsmen in 1901. Said to be a cross between a seedling of Gradus and a seedling from the extra early varieties.

This is another of the new and very desirable varieties of the large-seeded, large-podded, extra early class of peas which have followed upon the introduction of the Gradus in 1897. It is very much like that variety, but is said to be slightly earlier and hardier. The pods, however, are shorter and not so large and handsome, while in color they are darker, and in shape square instead of pointed at the end. The quality is very good, but not equal to Gradus, and partakes more of the flavor of the ordinary, extra early varieties. Its great value lies in its large showy pods, combined with extreme earliness and fair hardiness of plant.

Seed furnished by Northrup, King & Co., Minneapolis, Minn.

## BEET.

### RUBY DULCET.

A very popular beet in England. First introduced in this country in 1899 by Johnson & Stokes.

An especially valuable introduction, and very distinct from other globe-shaped beets in its greater depth. The color is a deep red, the shape a deep globe, very full at the top and holding its size well to the bottom, while the surface is very smooth and entirely free from root hairs, rootlets, or markings. The leaves are medium dark red in color and being very small and erect in habit, the variety is, therefore, suitable for close planting. The season is early, or about the same as Detroit Dark Red. The flesh is very dark and zoned with deep red and a lighter shade; the quality is fine-grained, sweet, and tender.

Seed furnished by Johnson & Stokes, Philadelphia, Pa.

## TOMATO.

### THORBURN'S EARLIEST.

Originated by J. M. Thorburn & Co., and introduced by them in 1902. This variety was obtained by selection of a number of English greenhouse sorts grown for several seasons out of doors in the vicinity of New York.

It is claimed by the introducers to be the earliest tomato grown and to be five days earlier than the Atlantic Prize, which is the most generally grown extra early sort. This variety is undoubtedly a splendid introduction and extremely early, but of small size. Compared to Atlantic Prize, it is considerably smaller in size but much superior to it in being smoother, less corrugated and scarred, and more of a globe shape. It is similar to Conference and to Bright and Early, but considerably earlier than either, and much larger than the latter. The plants have the fine leaf and habit of growth of the extra early varieties. The fruits are bright scarlet, flat globe shape, and perfectly smooth. Specially recommended for forcing, but a splendid outdoor sort also.

Seed furnished by J. M. Thorburn & Co., New York.

## LETTUCE.

### HALF CENTURY.

A very old variety of foreign origin, seldom catalogued by American seedsmen. John Lewis Childs, of Floral Park, N. Y., it seems, was the first American seedsman to catalogue it, or at least the first to claim for it any special superiority.

The plant is very dark green in color, of a peculiarly loose, flabby, half-heading habit. It is difficult to make it head well under any conditions, and on account of its behavior in this respect, as well as its weak growth and decidedly inferior appearance, it will never be a general favorite. Its value lies solely in its extra fine quality; for it is exceedingly brittle and tender, and of unsurpassed sweetness. The quality is of that delicacy which is free from the buttery quality of some kinds, and the hard crispness, the coarseness, and the strong, slightly bitter quality of some other kinds. The leaves, which are exceedingly brittle but thick, are easily broken. The variety will not stand the least transportation, and is suitable for the home garden only.

Seed furnished by Vaughan's Seed Store, Chicago, Ill.

## MUSKMELON.

### ROCKY FORD.

This variety is a strain of the old and well-known Netted Gem, and has been recently developed and grown in immense quantities at Rock Ford, Colo., whence it has been shipped extensively to all the eastern and northern markets. The variety has been made extremely popular by the Rocky Ford growers as much on account of the careful shipping they have practiced as for the fine melons they have been able to produce in their ideal melon-growing country. The development of the variety is obscure and disputed. It was first introduced by seedsmen in 1899.

The melon is very early and productive, and the fruits small and oval-shaped, shallow-ribbed, densely netted, mottled green and yellow. The flesh is green, of the very best quality, and,

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PEA.

PROLIFIC EARLY MARKET.

Originated by N. B. Keeney & Sons, and first introduced by A. W. Livingston & Sons and Wm. Henry Maule in 1901. The variety is descended from a plant found by Mr. Keeney in Extra Early about twelve years ago.

This valuable acquisition to the extra early varieties resembles Alaska, and like it and other extra early smooth-seeded sorts is of poor quality but hardy, which latter characteristic enables it to be planted much earlier and ripened pods obtained far in advance of the less hardy but better quality peas. The pods are very much larger and contain more peas, and the plant is considerably more productive than other extra early varieties, and a great improvement over them in many respects, and only three or four days later. The vine is tall and slender like Extra Early, but considerably larger. The pods are of medium size, light green in color, round, straight, and attractive.

Seed furnished by A. W. Livingston & Sons, Columbus, Ohio.

**BEET.****RUBY DULCET.**

A very popular beet in England. First introduced in this country in 1899 by Johnson & Stokes.

An especially valuable introduction, and very distinct from other globe-shaped beets in its greater depth. The color is a deep red, the shape a deep globe, very full at the top and holding its size well to the bottom, while the surface is very smooth and entirely free from root hairs, rootlets, or markings. The leaves are medium dark red in color and being very small and erect in habit, the variety is, therefore, suitable for close planting. The season is early, or about the same as Detroit Dark Red. The flesh is very dark and zoned with deep red and a lighter shade; the quality is fine-grained, sweet, and tender.

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